

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 2, 1893, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks, Sunday, May 2, (?) 1893. My dear Alec:

I did not mean to keep your delightful letter, I mean "Notes" so long unacknowledged, but I did.

Here we are in Twin Oaks and it is lovely here, and as cool as I like it. All the roses, the rhododendrons and the azaleas are in bloom, the iris is magnificent and everything is fresh and beautiful after the rain of the last day or two. We came out here on Friday leaving Mr. McCurdy and Douglas in possession of our house. Mamma invited Douglas out, but I thought there were enough children here. Yesterday I sent the children to the matinee at the National Theatre in aid of the Homeopathic Hospital. The play was "Pinafore" and was acted by children of from four to seven or eight years. I was going also, but had to take Elsie's place at the dentist's, but the children enjoyed themselves immensely and came home very full of "Never, what Never?" "Well, Hardly ever." Don't you remember how it took possession of us years ago?

Uncle Theo. is doing very nicely. Mamma says she can see better without his glasses than Cousin Annie can see without here. He has not however, been fitted with glasses yet as Dr. Burnett says his eyes are not ready for them. Mamma seems well, Papa and Charlie are away fishing in the Adirondacks. Mamma says Papa's method of fishing is to sit with his book reading while Charlie holds the line, and it is to be hoped catches some fish.

I saw Mr. Storrow in the street the other day, he has come on to fight the Government prosecution against the late Commissioner of Patents, Simonds, who is accused of favoring our Company unduly. Mr. Pollok said he was surprised that Mr. Storrow should

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take any notice of it, his plan would be to turn the whole thing into ridicule. They say Mr. Westervelt is very ill, and suffering torments, but they don't say what the trouble is.

I went to your Father's last night and played whist and he and I won four games against your Mother and Mr. McCurdy. Mr. McCurdy is working hard at his reproducer, he has a smart man at the laboratory and is very much pleased.

I am so glad you reduced your weight. Do keep up reducing it. I am sure you cannot be well while you are so heavy.

I am so awfully sorry of your disappointment about the lambs, perhaps all the other sheep to come in will have twins. I want to hear. What a mean shame about the Jersey bull calves. By the way you spoke of only two calves, there ought to have been three as we have three cows. Is another calf coming? What a shame we can't sell the bulls. Why don't you have the young ones changed, we need cattle for the manure and it will certainly pay us to raise the ox calves for manure and beef. That would surely be more sensible than shooting them, as we have to buy cattle for manure. Please do this. By all means build the reservoir and drain so as to have plenty of water for irrigation as well as fire extinguishing purposes. I am sure for us this will be the cheapest way of fertilizing our land and getting good crops. You know we have long seasons of drought sometimes, when everything else is so favorable to the growth of crops that if we but had plenty of water everything would flourish 3 like wild-fire. You say the new house is enormous. Is it handsome also? I think in considering its inflammability you don't take sufficiently into consideration the fact that it is spread out on the ground, and not piled high, so that even if one part takes fire the other will not be in so much danger as if the house were compact one story on top of the other. Flames tend rather to shoot upward than to spread and being only a story and a half high it will not be difficult to throw water over it and to thoroughly wet one part of the house while the other is burning so that the flames cannot spread.

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I think that Mr. Martin would be able to do his work better if it were more concentrated, or if he had a horse. At present his work is two miles apart, some at the point and some at the lodge. I should think he could have a horse while we are away and convey himself and assistant backward and forward more quickly and save much time. I think it would almost amount to the time of one man.

Goodbye. Take care of yourself.

Your loving, Mabel.